

MINUTES OF THE MARGARETTA BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) SPECIAL WORKING SESSION MEETING OF JULY 28, 2020

The Margaretta Board of Education met in special working session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at MES Gymnasium, 5906 Bogart Road, Castalia, Ohio.

Mr. Warner called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. requesting roll call by Mrs. Keegan:

Mr. Miller:	Present
Mr. Schoenegge:	Present
Mr. Sutorius:	Present
Mrs. Yetter:	Present
Mr. Warner:	Present.

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Sutorius, on Resolution number 20-21-01, to approve the Board to rescind current Board Policy 8740 – “Bonding,” and adopts new Board Policy 8740- “Employee Dishonesty and Faithful Performance of Duty Insurance Policy,” effective immediately; Roll Call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: absent, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

The Board then had a working session for the restart and reopening plan for the fall, where the administrators and Mr. Kurt rolled out the Margaretta plan (see overview of planning attached).

Motion by Mr. Sutorius, seconded by Mrs. Yetter to adjourn the meeting having no further business to come before the Board; Roll Call: Mr. Sutorius: absent, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

The Board adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Andrew Warner
Board President

Diane Keegan
Treasurer

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
Resolution presented for approval by Diane.**

Overview of Planning

Ed discussed the planning teams and committees that have been in place with our administrative team to work hard in getting a plan to get our children back in school. Commended the administrative team for their time and dedication.

Ed said that the first 2 weeks of school is imperative to have our children in school to acclimate to the style of learning as we adjust to the ever changing and unknown. Teachers are attending training to benefit our students whether hybrid or remote learning. Ed mentioned that being cautious of the heat index during the beginning of the school year. With the heat and masks, we will not be able to have staff and students in attendance in the buildings.

Students' progress will be monitored via Progress Book. The rigor this school year will be closer to what actual school is.

Professional Development is way ahead of schedule and what it was last year. Mondays will be used for extra planning and attendance issues for students not doing their work or needing one on one time. IEP and Gifted students will also be able to utilize half day Mondays. Transportation will be provided for those students.

Face Covering Policy, Remote Education Plan-(Board approved in two August Meetings)

Ed reviewed the Face Covering Policy with the Board Members. Videos from the Health Department on how to wash hands, wear a mask properly, and lanyards for district staff and students will be provided. If a student is unable to wear a mask due to health or other issues the parent can reach out to the principal and this can be discussed. Outdoor areas are to be utilized as much as possible. Busing will be capable and provided. No visitors or service animals will be allowed in the buildings. Videos will also be provided on how to care for your facemask. These videos will be available online on our website, Final Forms, Facebook, etc.

Ed reviewed the documents provided from the health department on the steps and chart structure on how to handle a student or staff member with COVID-19 symptoms. Paul asked if people with asthma will be able to wear a mask. Mandi Yetter commented that she has asthma and wears an N95 mask and takes breaks and she is fine.

Reopening/Restart Draft

Rod discussed page 2 of the draft of the risk color coding and discussed how the instructional model is matched up with the different models of teaching plans. Paul questioned if this will be determined by county or district. He expressed the goal of staying as traditional as possible.

Ed mentioned the increase in cases in Bellevue and that tracking can be broken down by county, and even neighborhood, but the best outcome and environment is for kids to be in school.

Rod talked about the many ways that we are able to service our students with this plan. He talked about the students who did not meet the requirements of the last quarter of the 2019-2020 school year and how these students will be required to meet the additional day a week (Mondays) until they are on track.

Ed mentioned that he will not be roller coasting the school year with bouncing between the different teaching options and that starting hybrid is the best option for starting the school year. Gary mentioned that starting hybrid will also solve daycare issues and scrambles than starting traditional and having to convert to a hybrid or remote.

Ed mentioned getting all the information out and accessible to the parents on our website and having a COVID link so that they are kept aware of changes and information at their fingertips.

Rod read over the Guiding Principles. Paul mentioned in #5 that something should be mentioned that even if the school closes due to COVID we will still have school in session. Ed mentioned NOVA that will be available for our students. Keven mentioned speaking with at least 5 parents today and that they were pleased that their student could still remain a Margareta student. Keith mentioned the alignment that NOVA will have with the Margareta curriculum. Ed mentioned the importance of branding and showing our parents and community what awesome projects and learning we are providing to our students. Ed told the board that the K-1 Chromebook are touch screen. Paul was concerned about the reduced students not getting a waiver of the Chromebook fee like the free students. Diane mentioned that the parents are used to this procedure because this is the same process for the school fees.

Learning Models

Ed asked Keven to discuss his specials and how they will move forward with breaking the classes down to 20% per quarter. Rod then discussed the other areas of the movement of students. Started with transportation. NO students behind the driver. Assigned seats on busses and lunchroom. Matt Smith discussed how he has been working with Courtney on the bus routing. All the routes will be seating 25 students and he confirmed there will be plenty of room. Ed discussed the positional changes of Amy Bogard and how this change has not cost the school a position at this time due to the low numbers in kindergarten. Matt discussed how he will discuss with the drivers on being flexible and fluid throughout the year as things may change daily. Ed mentioned possibly having to add hours to our bussing staff for supervision of the lunch times and recess and they have been very responsive and positive to help where help

is needed. Ed reassured the board that preschool tuition will be taken care of, but at this time they will be expected to pay the regular tuition rate.

Daily entry and exit was then explained by Rod. Paul questioned temperature taking and was told that staff and students are responsible for taking their temperature at home before coming to work/school. Kent Miller mentioned noting the words “symptoms outside of your normal health status” as some people may have headaches regularly. This was supported by Mandi Yetter.

Rod then discussed Wearing of Facial Coverings during School. Rod mentioned students and staff with health conditions/mental/physical health issues that do not allow them to wear the face covering and this will be addressed to help make this possible and comfortable for them while maintaining safety and physical distancing.

Physical Distancing in the Classrooms was discussed. Hybrid is 6 feet apart or more. Seats/desks will be taped off where students/staff will not be allowed to sit. Unnecessary items will be removed from the classrooms. Try to eliminate any unnecessary items as this will be less to disinfect. Ed mentioned Rod’s idea of block scheduling to provide for less movement. Rod said he can fit 30 students in the cafeteria at this time with physical distancing guidelines. We will need to utilize gym space for lunches. Ed said that we will be starting the school year with boxed lunches and students who need food will get food to them as Matt has assured bus drivers can and will deliver to those students in need.

Daily Cleaning of Classrooms and Common Areas

Drew stepped forward and explained the disinfecting foggers and demonstrated its use. He mentioned that the staff will need to assist with the fogging to help with the custodial staff in maintaining the cleanliness of these areas throughout the schools. One fogger to every 2 teachers in the district. More being utilized in athletics and busses (cordless). Drew also mentioned a gas powered back pack version for the outdoor stadium. He also talked about pushing back the start time of elementary events and that this will allow for the gym to be fogged a prepared for guests and events. He is working with John Cullen for lanyards for the face masks for the staff and students (break away for safety). Also, face shields have been ordered. Ed talked about the desk shields for K-2. Keven mentioned the K-2 kids are familiar with the desk shields and this will not be unusual to them. Bottle fillers are on order as drinking fountains will not be accessible. Four additional water filling stations will be available throughout the district. Ed said that water bottle filling will have to be monitored to prevent contamination. He also said we will lose a chunk of educational time due to all of the health and safety precautions that we have to monitor and perform, but these are things that must be done and done well.

Rod mentioned that in the MS/HS lockers will not be utilized. One way traffic for hallways. Mandi questioned the use of book bags and not lockers and the safety issues, but Rod said that the physical distancing not being kept is more of a danger to us at this time then the carrying of a book bag to and from class.

Recess

Keven talked about staggering recess times and structuring activities. He also mentioned the importance of recess and getting the kids outside.

Rod said we will teach, remind, and encourage everyone to wash their hands.

Guests and Visitors are not permitted in the building. Those that must enter the building will be by appointment only. Drew discussed the fitness center and that at this time we will keep the fitness center closed to the public and only open to our coaches and athletes. Mandi mentioned making the statement that guests and visitors are NOT permitted in the building. She feels the need to make this very clearly stated.

Choir/Band students have been wearing masks and things have been going very well per Rod. Drew would like Athletics added to the Band/Choir Marching Banding heading.

School Offices - make sure the third bullet reflects NO VISITORS PERMITTED.

Quarantine room is available. A video monitor with sound is available to monitor the student so that a staff member does not have to be in the room with the student. A student with symptoms will be removed from the building by staff. No parent will enter the building. **Ed mentioned stating Erie and Sandusky County Health Departments when county health departments are discussed in the documents.**

Students with COVID or any member of the household with COVID must quarantine and released by the Health Department. Staff members with COVID or quarantine must have material prepared for sub and quarantine and be released by the Health Department. Paul would like fever free without fever reducing medications. Ed asked Mandi her opinion on that it be recommended that we mention Health Department and CDC guidelines will be followed.

Alternative Online Curriculum was discussed. The children that need the additional day of instruction they will be required to attend on a Monday, at least half a day. Rod mentioned that it is very important for parents to understand that their students can still be serviced as Margareta students via NOVA. A discussion took place whether a student has to stay with NOVA for a whole semester. It was all agreed that that is the best, but not a deal breaker. Keven mentioned that the percentage of students that have been surveyed are about 85% to 15% for returning to school. Andy asked about the sick time for an employee with COVID illness. Diane explained there is a list of criteria for COVID ill employees.

Educational Options Draft

Keven explained the sections of the DRAFT teaching models and that administrators and teachers helped in creating this DRAFT. Remote (hard close from the Health Departments) = our teachers teaching through Google Classroom. NOVA students will not be in the classroom at all. Ed mentioned working with MTA regarding the teachers and providing office hours. Paul

would prefer the wording to be “answer” and not “response”. Keven mentioned that we had 95% of the parents respond that they had reliable access to the internet.

Hybrid = combined online and in class learning. This is where we hope to be able to start our school year. Ed mentioned the additional mental health support that can be provided on Mondays. Rod broke down the lunch schedule. Keven and Ed discussed the importance of lecture at home via google classroom and the hands-on is being done at school. This will help with less stress on the parent(s) to be the teachers.

Diane mentioned the meetings that have taken place with MTA and OAPSE and that this will be a flexible and fluid schedule and they will be required to work. Gary wanted to know if the teachers were going to be allowed to decide whether or not they wanted to sub for another classroom or basically have a choice in subbing. Ed said that this will be looked into.

Athletics -

Drew discussed the fall sports schedule. OSHAA discussed the low risk and high risk contact sports. Fall sports, junior high and high school may start practicing August 1. Football and Cross Country at this time is considered a contact or high risk sport and at this time is not permitted to participate in contests against other teams. Discussed face masks being worn. Equipment will stay on premises. Clothing will be taken home. Both locker rooms will be utilized. Lockers will be sanitized between two a day practices. Paul asked what happens if clothing is left behind. Drew said the coaches will have to be diligent that this does not happen. Andy asked about transporting athletes. Matt and Drew mentioned that face masks are already required and seating will not be an issue with 4 busses. Drew said that showering will be advocated. Drew demonstrated the fogger. Ed mentioned linking the video of the bus fogging to our website and Facebook page to show the parents and the community how it works.

Any other Board questions regarding Transportation, Food Service, Athletics, Special Education, etc.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.